

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 7:30 p.m., February 25, 1997.

Members present: Mayor G. Michael Shelton; Vice Mayor Larry D. Brookshier; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Councilwoman Linda Kochendarfer; Councilman W. D. Tharp; and Councilman Robert T. Wandrei.

Members absent: Councilman H. Davis Ballard.

Staff present: City Manager Jack A. Gross; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV; and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Shelton opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mayor Shelton declared that the minutes of a regular Council meeting held on February 11, 1997, were approved as corrected; and the minutes of an adjourned Council meeting held on February 15, 1997, were approved as distributed.

Councilman Wandrei stated the meeting with localities in the Region 2000 area that he, Councilwoman Flood, Councilwoman Kochendarfer, and City Manager Gross attended was very worthwhile.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer commented on the following items:

- the State Legislature has given the D-Day National Memorial an additional \$100,000 in this biennium
- there will be a conference on ethics in politics at the Patrick Henry Institute in Lynchburg on April 4 and 5
- that she will furnish Council with an analysis of figures and data from the School Board and the Superintendent of Schools

The Mayor reported that Council has received an invitation from Bedford Primary School to attend programs presented by the Odyssey of the Mind teams on March 6 at 1:45 p.m. and 2:15 p.m.

Mayor Shelton stated the "Thousand Man March," which was organized by the Bedford Chapter of the NAACP, was held in the City on February 24. The Mayor indicated that several local officials were involved.

The Consent Agenda consisted of the following item:

Appointment of Council members Brookshier, Tharp, and Flood to the City Communications Committee. The purpose of the committee would be to develop an agreement for sharing a joint dispatch center with Bedford County.

On motion by Councilwoman Kochendarfer, seconded by Councilman Wandrei, voted upon and carried, Council adopted the Consent Agenda.

City Manager Gross stated that during its regular meeting on January 14, 1997, Council approved a conditional use request to allow construction of a telecommunications (cellular) tower on City property at the west end of Helm Street which is located in a PRD zone. Approval was granted subject to several conditions. At that time Council instructed the City Manager to advertise the proposed lease of space for erection of the tower, with the bids to be opened at the February 25th meeting.

Mayor Shelton opened the only bid received and stated that the bid was from United States Cellular Corporation, Donald F. Maty, President of Dan Cell, Incorporated. The bid was for \$250.00 monthly. The Mayor presented the bid to the City Manager.

Vice Mayor Brookshier moved that Council accept the bid from United States Cellular Corporation. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Kochendarfer.

The City Attorney stated that he prepared a lease that was forwarded to United States Cellular in Chicago and Mr. Berry reviewed some of the provisions of the lease. The lease is being reviewed by the attorneys for U.S. Cellular.

City Attorney Berry asked that the motion be amended as follows: and authorize the City Manager to execute a lease in substantially the same form as the one that has been on file with the City.

Vice Mayor Brookshier agreed to amend the motion. The motion follows as amended: that Council accept the bid from United States Cellular Corporation and authorize the City Manager to execute a lease in substantially the same form as the one that has been on file with the City.

Councilwoman Kochendarfer, who seconded the motion, agreed to the amendment.

The motion was then voted upon and carried by the following roll call vote:

Councilman Ballard absent

Vice Mayor Brookshier aye

Councilwoman Flood aye

Councilwoman Kochendarfer aye

Councilman Tharp aye

Councilman Wandrei aye

Mayor Shelton aye

Mr. Augustine J. Fagan, Executive Director of Central Virginia Community Services (CVCS), introduced the following members of the board of directors who spoke favorably in behalf of CVCS: Father James J. Begley and Joan Lawrie, Chairman of the Board of Directors.

Mr. Fagan furnished members of Council with copies of the annual report of Central Virginia Community Services and spoke regarding the variety of services provided by CVCS. Mr. Fagan stated the budget request for FY 1997-98 for CVCS is \$15,643.

Mayor Shelton stated that CVCS's request will be considered during the budget process.

Mr. Martin Wilson, Coordinator of the Safe Haven Program, explained the accomplishments of the program. Mr. Wilson stated the goal of the program is to firmly establish Safe Haven in the Bedford community so its benefits can continue and broaden, and he reviewed several objectives toward meeting this goal.

Mr. Wilson stated that funding to continue the Safe Haven program during FY 1997-98 is estimated at \$48,000.

The Mayor stated that it was the consensus of Council, at its planning meeting on February 15, 1997, to include funds in the amount of \$24,000 in the proposed FY 1997-98 budget for the Safe Haven program if the Bedford County School Board agrees to fund the other \$24,000.

Mayor Shelton reported that Council had received a letter from the Superintendent of Bedford County Public Schools which indicated the County School Board has agreed to provide matching funding for the Safe Haven program during 1997-98.

Mr. William McGuire, Director of the Safe Haven program, reviewed activities of the program.

Mr. Tom Hehman, Director of the Bedford Public Library, reviewed a preliminary draft of the Library's operating budget for FY 1997-98. Mr. Hehman indicated that this year's budget is driven by two goals: 1. achieve pay equity for library staff 2. open the Montvale Library to the public in April 1998, on a 34 hour per week schedule. Mr. Hehman will furnish Council with updated budget figures as soon as possible.

The City Manager stated a request has been received from Mr. Bolling Lambeth, Chairman of the City Electoral Board, to move the polling place for Ward Two from Bedford Elementary School to the National Guard Armory. In the event the Armory is not available at the time of an election, the contingency plan would be for voters in both Ward One and Ward Two to vote at the Bedford Public Library.

Discussion ensued concerning the availability of the Armory, the need for two voting precincts, and the costs incurred by the City for having two precincts.

The City Manager is to provide Council with information concerning the cost for the City to have two precincts which will take into consideration the number of poll workers, volume of voters, and the number of machines necessary to handle the volume of voters.

City Manager Gross stated on April 30, 1993, the City entered into an agreement with Dr. Dennis H. Robinson, Jr., whereby Dr. Robinson granted the City an option to purchase an easement across the back portion of his property to provide access between the Library property and Bedford Avenue. The City, in exchange, built a street and sidewalk providing ingress and egress to the Library and named the street Robinson Way. Under the terms of the agreement, the City has until 5:00 p.m. on March 7, 1997, to exercise the option to acquire the right-of-way in fee simple title.

Vice Mayor Brookshier moved that Council exercise the option to purchase the easement known as Robinson Way. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tharp, voted upon and carried.

The City Manager stated that under an option agreement dated June 23, 1995, the City has an option to purchase the John Wharton House located on North Bridge Street from Dr. Dennis Robinson. The City may exercise this option until March 7, 1997. City Manager Gross reported that Fred Duis, President of the Wharton Memorial Foundation, had provided Council with information on the Foundation's proposal on this matter.

Mr. Duis asked Council to exercise the option with Dr. Robinson and then convey the property to the Wharton Memorial Foundation. Mr. Duis reported that on February 18, the Wharton- Gregory Restoration Limited Liability Corporation held an organizational meeting with its attorney. This organization has raised \$56,000 in cash and \$19,000 in signed pledges to be paid by June 1, 1997.

On motion by Councilman Tharp, seconded by Councilwoman Kochendarfer, voted upon and carried, Council elected to exercise the option to purchase the Dennis H. Robinson office building and to sell the property to the Wharton Memorial Foundation in consideration of the assumption by that Foundation of all City obligations and in accordance with the proposal set forth in a letter from Fred Duis to the Mayor, dated February 14, 1997. All costs are to be paid by the Wharton Foundation and the City is to be repaid \$1,000

originally paid for the option.

City Manager Gross stated that during the Council meeting of February 11, 1997, landscape architect Robert McDuffie presented the final drawings of plans for the Wharton Garden.

On motion by Councilwoman Kochendarfer, seconded by Councilman Tharp, voted upon and carried, Council approved the plan for the Wharton Garden as presented by Robert McDuffie and authorized the Wharton Foundation to proceed.

Mayor Shelton reported that Councilman Ballard is at home recovering from knee surgery and is doing well.

Mayor Shelton adjourned the meeting at 8:40 p.m.